

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4748

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2517

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: VISIT OF KING CARL GUSTAF TO THE US IN APRIL 1976

1. I RESPECTFULLY RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT RECEIVE KING CARL THE XVI GUSTAF OF SWEDEN DURING THE KING'S SCHEDULED PRIVATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN APRIL 1976. I UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT. I WILL APPRECIATE RECEIVING A STATUS REPORT.

2. UNDER CURRENT PLANNING, THE KING WILL BE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 5 AND 6 AND IN NEW YORK APRIL 26-28. BETWEEN APRIL 7 AND 26 HE HAS SCHEDULED VISITS TO PHILADELPHIA, MINNEAPOLIS, SEATTLE, SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, COLORADO, KANSAS, CHICAGO, DETROIT AND HOUSTON. HE WILL BE VISITING SWEDISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, UNIVERSITIES, FACTORIES, AND THE UN.

3. DURING HIS VISIT, THE KING IS ASSURED OF A WARM WELCOME BY CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS IN MANY STATES. I BELIEVE THE ADMINISTRATION STANDS TO GAIN BY INVITING THE KING TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THIS INITIATIVE WOULD REJOICE THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS OF SWEDISH DESCENT. WITHIN SWEDEN IT WILL GRATIFY THE LARGE SEGMENT OF THE SWEDISH POPULATION THAT IS ATTACHED TO THE MONARCHY. THIS SEGMENT CONTAINS A GOOD PROPORTION OF THE SWEDES THAT ARE ALSO ATTACHED TO
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THE AMERICAN CONNECTION.

4. AN INVITATION COULD POSE SOME HAZARDS: THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, STRAYING FROM ITS PRESENT COURSE OF MAINTAINING

GOOD RELATIONS WITH US, MIGHT RESUME MISCHIEVIOUS POLEMICS AGAINST THE USG, EITHER FOR DOMESTIC INTERNAL OR PERCEIVED FOREIGN POLICY ADVANTAGE. IT IS ALSO CONCEIVABLE THAT ANTI-MONARCHISTS IN THE GOS MIGHT WISH TO EMBARRASS THE KING BY PRONOUNCEMENTS OFFENSIVE TO US. I BELIEVE THESE HAZARDS TO BE VERY SLIGHT. THESE RISKS ARE OUTWEIGHED BY SWEDISH LONG-RANGE INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH US, INCLUDING SWEDEN'S STAKE IN CONTINUING MILITARILY-APPLICABLE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFERS FROM THE US. IN THE MORE IMMEDIATE TERM, SWEDEN STANDS TO PROFIT FROM AMERICAN GOODWILL AND TRADE GENERATED BY THE KING'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT.

5. THE POPULARITY OF THE YOUNG KING (NOW 29) IS RISING. THOUGH YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED, HE IS ATTRACTIVE AND EAGER TO LEARN. WHILE SWEDES VOTE FOR FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES, THEY ARE ALSO DIVIDED INTO TWO HISTORICAL FACTIONS: PRO-MONARCHISTS AND ANTI-MONARCHISTS. RECENT LEGISLATION HAS REDUCED THE KING TO A MERE SYMBOL, FORMALIZING A STATE OF AFFAIRS THAT HAS EXISTED THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY. SURPRISINGLY, THE KING'S DIVESTMENT OF ALL FORMAL POLITICAL POWER MAY HAVE STRENGTHENED THE POPULARITY OF THE MONARCHY RATHER THAN WEAKENED IT. IF AND WHEN THE SWEDES RUN INTO TROUBLES THAT CANNOT BE REMEDIED BY POLITICAL SHUFFLING, THEY MAY WELL LOOK TO THE MONARCHY AS A NATIONAL RALLYING SYMBOL AND SOURCE OF PATRIOTISM. IN SUM WE HAVE SOMETHING TO GAIN AND NOTHING TO LOSE BY BEING NICE TO THE SWEDISH CHIEF-OF-STATE WHO HAPPENS TO LIKE AMERICANS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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